REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 is amended and Claim 4 is cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 4 stands objected to as being an unnecessary repetition of claim 3. Claim 4 is cancelled.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuronuma et al (U.S. Pat. No. 5,831,646). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the droplet jetting apparatus having the above structure, since the head unit 11 is supported on the head unit support 61 via a distance adjusting mechanism 20 for adjusting a height of the head unit 11 with respect to the head unit support 61, it is possible to adjust the distance between the nozzle forming surfaces of the droplet jetting heads 111 and the work (substrate) W in accordance with the thickness of the substrate W to be used.

In more detail, the head unit support 61 is provided with respect to the main body 2 so that the head unit support 61 can not be moved with respect to the main body 2 in the up and down directions. Therefore, the provision of the distance adjusting mechanism 20 described above makes it possible to adjust the distance between the head unit support 61 and the head unit 11, that is, the height of the head unit 11 (the

nozzle forming surfaces of the droplet jetting heads 111) with respect to the substrate surfaces of the droplet jetting heads 111 and the work (substrate) W in accordance with the thickness of the substrate W to be used. This makes it possible to draw patterns with high precision.

Thus, the above feature of the present invention means that only the head unit 11 is moved in the up and down directions for the height adjustment through the distance adjusting mechanism 20 independently from the head unit support 61 and the head driving control section 130. Therefore, only a load of the head unit 11 is applied to the distance adjusting mechanism 20.

In contrast with the present invention, Applicant respectfully submits that Kuronuma et al. does not suggest or teach such a feature. In the case of an ink jet printer such as Kuronuma et al., the height of the head 1 may be adjusted. However, normally, such height adjustment is carried out by adjusting a platen gap of the printer, that is, the head unit support (carried 16) is moved together with the head 1 and the head driving control section (driving circuit) 26, which is distinguished from the present invention in which the height adjustment is carried out by moving only the head unit 11 independently from the head unit support 61 and the head driving control section 130.

Furthermore, according to the present invention described above, the distance between the head driving control section 130 provided on the head unit support 61 and the head unit 11 is changed when the height adjustment of the head unit 11 is carried out through the distance adjustment mechanism 120, it becomes necessary to provide the second transmission means 140 between the head driving control section 130 and at least one droplet jetting head of the head unit 11.

In contrast, it appears that Kuronuma et al. does not employ any such equivalent means as the second transmission means 140.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that the subject matter of claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuronuma et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,831,646) in view of Fukushima et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,444,468). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 is cancelled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

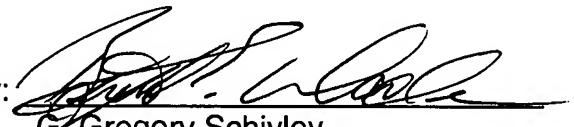
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Jan 8, 2007

By: 

G. Gregory Schivley
Reg. No. 27,382
Bryant E. Wade
Reg. No. 40,344

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

[GGS/BEW/pvd]